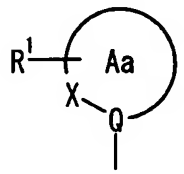
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

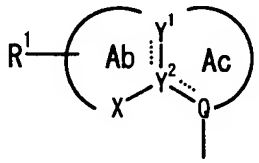
1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula:

A—W—Ar (I)

wherein, A is a group represented by the formula (A1) or (A2):



(A1)



(A2)

wherein, ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^1;

ring Ab is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^1;

ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and Q, and may be substituted with one or more substituents;

R^1 is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl;

X is carbonyl, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$;

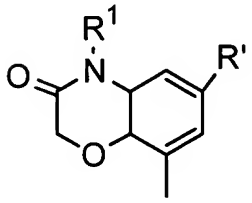
Y^1, Y^2 and Q are independently optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen;

··· is a single or double bond ;

W is a bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, an optionally substituted imino, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl;

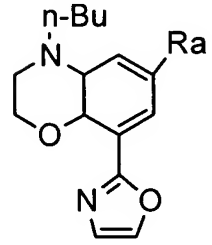
provided that when the group represented by the formula (A2) is a group represented by the formula:



wherein R' is hydrogen, chloro or an optionally substituted alkoxy and R^1 is as defined above; and W is a bond, then Ar is not thiazolyl substituted with one or two substituents or condensed with dihydroimidazole;

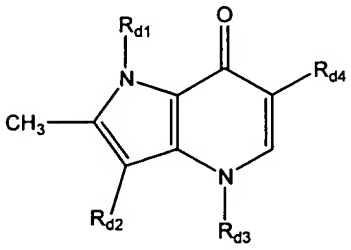
and ~~exluding~~ excluding the following compounds:

(i) a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Ra is a substituted carbamoyl,

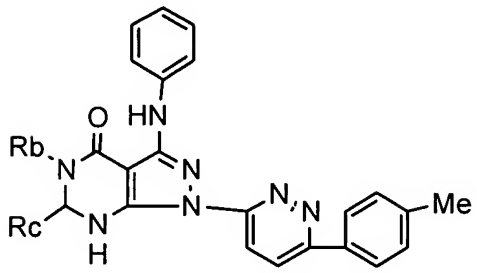
(ii) a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R_{d1} and R_{d3} is each hydrocarbyl, R_{d2} and R_{d4} is each carboxy optionally substituted

with hydrocarbyl,

(iii) a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Rb is hydrogen, amino or phenyl, Rc is C_{1-4} alkyl, a substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl,

(iv) ethyl 4-(6-chloro-2,2,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-8-yl)-6-propyl-2,4-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine-5-carboxylate, 7-methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 8-methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 4-(8-benzyl-4-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl)-2,4-dioxobutanoic acid, ethyl 1,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-3,5-diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinazoline-6-carboxylate, 1-cyclobutyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-5-phenoxy-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 1-cyclopropyl-7-(2,6-dimethylpyridin-4-yl)-6,8-difluoro-4-oxo-5-(phenylthio)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 1-ethyl-8-methoxy-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 1-cyclopropyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-5-(phenylthio)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4,6-dimethyl-8-(4-methyl-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 4,6-dimethyl-8-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 2,2,4-trimethyl-8-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 8-chloro-1-methyl-4-oxo-5-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 8-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)sulfinyl]-4-methyl-2-phenylphthalazin-1(2H)-one, 3-[(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-

pyrazol-4-yl)amino]-6-methyl-1,7-dihydro-4H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-one, 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-7-oxo-6,7-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidine-3-carbonitrile, 3,6-dibenzyl-1-cyclopentyl-1,7-dihydro-4H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-one, methyl (6-tert-butoxy-4-oxo-1,3-diphenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)acetate, 1,3,6-trimethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4(3H,7H)-dione, ethyl 4-({2-[(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)amino]-6-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl}thio)benzoate and methyl 4-{2-[2-amino-7-benzyl-3-(isopropoxymethyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]vinyl}benzoate; or a salt thereof.

2. (Original) A prodrug of the compound according to claim 1.

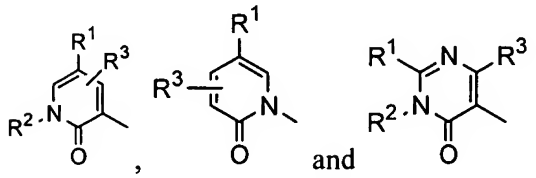
3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a group represented by the formula (A1).

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 3 wherein ring Aa is a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and which may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^1.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted branched C_{3-10} alkyl or an optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl.

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is a substituted amino or an optionally substituted cyclic amino.

7. (Original) The compound according to claim 3 wherein the group represented by the formula (A1) is a group represented by the formula selected from



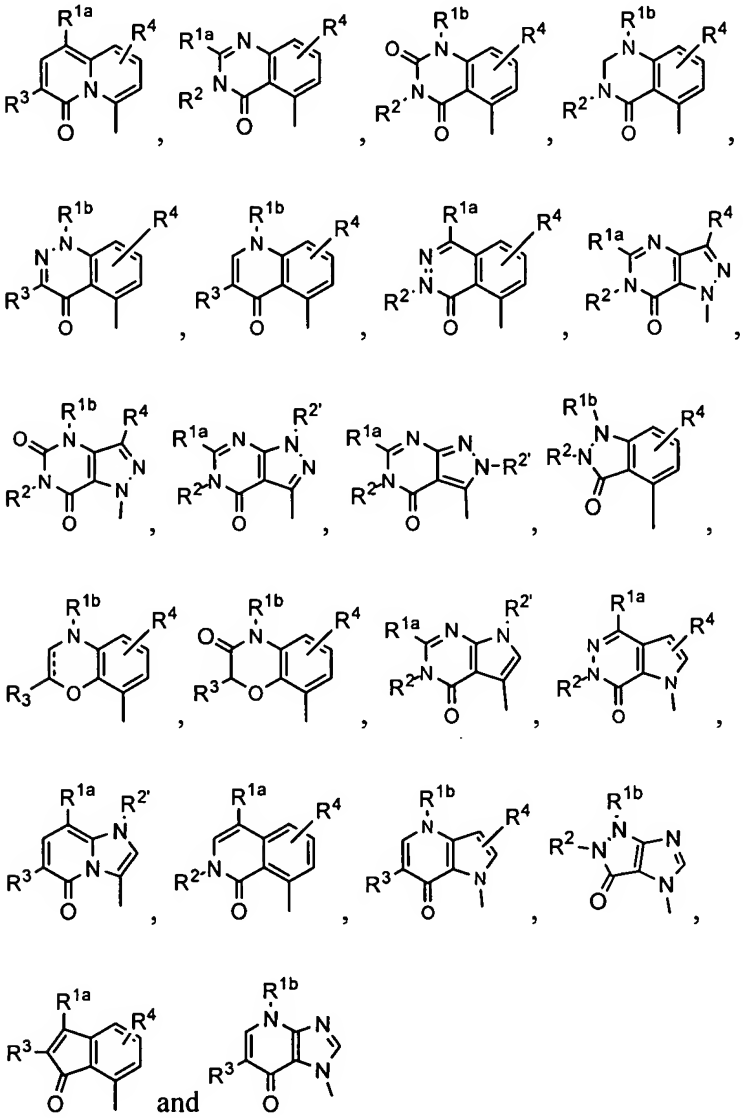
wherein, R^1 is as defined in claim 1; R^2 is hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted carboxy, or an optionally substituted acyl; and R^3 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted carboxy, an optionally substituted phosphoryl, an optionally substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, an optionally substituted sulfonyl or acyl.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a group represented by the formula (A2).

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein ring Ab is a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^1; ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered unsaturated ring which may have one or two further

heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and Q, and may be substituted with one or more substituents.

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein the group represented by the formula (A2) is a group represented by the formula selected from



wherein R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted acyl, a substituted

sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl; R^{1b} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or an optionally substituted acyl; R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are independently hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted carboxy, or an optionally substituted acyl;

R^3 and R^4 are independently hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted carboxy, an optionally substituted phosphoryl, an optionally substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, an optionally substituted sulfonyl or acyl, and

··· is as defined in claim 1.

11. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein W is a bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, or an optionally substituted imino.

12. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein W is a bond.

13. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl, an optionally substituted pyridyl or an optionally substituted pyrimidinyl.

14. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is carbonyl.

15. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is 3-(~~2,4-Dimethylphenyl~~2,4-dimethylphenyl)-6-dipropylamino-1,5-dimethyl-1,5-

dihydro-4*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one,

5-(~~2,4-Dimethylphenyl~~2,4-dimethylphenyl)-3-methyl-1-(1-propylbutyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one,

1-(~~Dipropylamino~~dipropylamino)-6-mesityl-3-methyl-4H-quinolizin-4-one,

2-(~~Dipropylamino~~dipropylamino)-5-mesityl-3,7-dimethyl-3,7-dihydro-*4H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one,

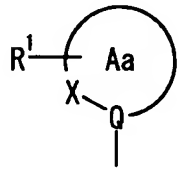
1-(~~2,4-Dimethylphenyl~~2,4-dimethylphenyl)-4-(1-ethylpropoxy)-6-methyl-1,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyridazin-7-one,

5-~~Mesityl~~mesityl-3-methyl-1-(1-propylbutyl)cinnolin-4(*1H*)-one, or 1-(1-ethylpropyl)-4-mesityl-2-methyl-1,2-dihydro-*3H*-indazol-3-one.

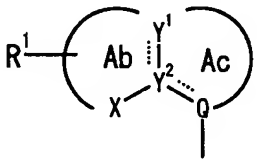
16. (Original) A method for treating or preventing a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula:

A—W—Ar (I')

wherein, A is a group represented by the formula (A1) or (A2):



(A1)



(A2)

wherein, ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^1; ring Ab is a 5- or 6-membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and X, and may be further substituted with one or

more substituents in addition to R^1; ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and Q, and may be substituted with one or more substituents; R^1 is an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl;
X is carbonyl, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$; Y^1, Y^2 and Q are independently optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen; $\cdots$ is a single or double bond;
W is a bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, an optionally substituted imino, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$;
Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl;
or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16 wherein the disease being treated or prevented is selected from affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

18. (Original) A medicine comprising the compound according to claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

19. (Original) The medicine according to claim 18 which is a corticotropin releasing factor antagonist.

20. (Original) The medicine according to claim 18 which is an agent for treating or

preventing affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

21. (Original) Use of the compound according to claim 1 or a prodrug thereof for manufacturing an agent for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety.